

OKANOGAN COUNTY

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD

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To: Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

Re: Removing buffer area of Hoary alyssum in Okanogan County

Date: March 25, 2014

Hoary alyssum, *Berteroa incana*, was added to the State Noxious Weed list in 2004 and is currently listed as a B-designated noxious weed in all areas of Okanogan County **except** Ranges 29-31 East of Townships 37-40 North. The excluded area was established to provide a temporary buffer area for landowners adjacent to Ferry County, which has established infestations of Hoary alyssum. Landowners were encouraged to begin control efforts with the understanding that the buffer area would be removed.

Education efforts have been ongoing, and landowners have begun to realize the necessity of controlling this invasive species. In order to provide the maximum support available to landowners controlling Hoary alyssum, the OCNWCB is requesting the removal of the buffer area and requiring control of Hoary alyssum throughout Okanogan County.

While Hoary alyssum continues to spread in Okanogan County, most landowners have controllable amounts and perform un-enforced control measures when contacted and educated by the Weed Board. The majority of infestations are in the current buffer area, with limited sites occurring in the western half of the county. While most landowners have controllable amounts, there are several landowners that have substantial amounts. The OCNWCB will work with these landowners to develop a noxious weed control plan which will include a 1000' buffer to adjacent properties as allowed in RCW 17.10.154. The increased spread is associated with vehicular traffic and movement of farm equipment out of the buffer area.

Ferry County has begun an education and control program for Hoary alyssum and landowners in Okanogan County are actively controlling Hoary alyssum on their properties. It is to assist these landowners that are controlling Hoary alyssum that the OCNWCB is requesting the removal of the buffer area.